



219.40853X00

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Michael D. HAINES

Serial No.: 10/024,724

Filing Date: December 21, 2001

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR INCREASING THE
IMMUNITY OF NEW GENERATION MICROPROCESSORS
FROM ESD EVENTS

Art Unit: 2823

Examiner: Julio J. MALDONADO

#8/Election
APR 2003
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TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

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RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

February 14, 2003

Sir:

Restriction was required in the outstanding Office Action mailed February 10, 2003 in the above-identified application between the semiconductor device of group I to which claims 1-28 are drawn, and the method of manufacturing a semiconductor device of group II to claims 29 and 30 are directed. This requirement is hereby traversed and reconsideration thereof is respectfully requested.

A reason advanced in the Office Action in support of the propriety of making the restriction requirement is that the product as claimed can be made by another and materially different process than the method of group II, namely by a process that does not include a step of surrounding a microprocessor with a gasket formed of a lossy, static dissipative material having a volume resistivity of greater than 10^2 ohm cm. Responsive to this, applicant respectfully notes that claim 14 of group I requires that the microprocessor is surrounded by a gasket of a lossy material which

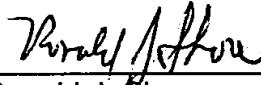
is a static dissipative material having a volume resistivity of greater than 10^2 ohm cm and could not be made by a materially different process than that of group II.

Further, it is respectfully submitted that the invention of the respective groups are of similar scope such that the prior art searches for each would be the same or substantially overlapping so as not to place a burden on the P.T.O. by acting on both groups in the present application. For at least these reasons, reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement is requested.

In order to be fully responsive to the Office Action, applicant hereby provisionally elects for further prosecution on merits the invention of group I to which claims 1-28 are drawn. An early action on the merits is requested.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136. Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case No. 219.40853X00) and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,



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RJS/kmh